

AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION

Rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 18, as follows:

FIG. 7 shows the fourth embodiment in which the focusing lens 6 is composed of two lenses. In order to produce an aberration that cancels the coma aberration produced by the objective lens due to the beam inclination in the focusing lens, which is disposed closer to the electron source than the objective lens, the spherical aberration in the focusing lens must be increased. This is because, as shown by equation (23), the contribution (aberration correction amount) of the spherical aberration in the focusing lens to the final point of focus decreases in proportion to the cube of the optical magnification ($M < 1$) of the objective lens. Therefore, it is desirable to use a focusing lens with a small magnetic pole opening size and with a small gap, so that a large spherical aberration can be obtained when the beam is inclined. However, a lens with a large spherical aberration is disadvantageous for high-resolution observation purposes. Thus, in the present embodiment, a lens 61 with a small geometric aberration, such as spherical aberration, is used in combination with a lens 62 with a large geometric aberration, so that high resolution applications and the beam inclining function can be realized simultaneously in a compatible manner.